

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ADP-00 COME-00 FDRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-11 EUR-25 SPM-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 AID-20 IGA-02 RSR-01 /159 W

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R 311540Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 888

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGO

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS GENEVA 4039

FOR: CHAPIN, SCI AND JOHNSON, NOAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WMO XA SWEL UNDP

SUBJ: WMO AND SAHELIAN DROUGHT PROBLEM

1. FOLLOWING TELCON WITH CARTWRIGHT, FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF WMO REVEALS THAT THERE IS SUPPORT FOR WMO PARTICIPATING AS AN EXECUTING AGENCY IN A STUDY OF POSSIBLE WEATHER MODIFICATION AS A MEANS OF AMELIORATING THE SAHELIAN DROUGHT. WMO SECRETARIAT HAVE REFERRED TO MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FIVE OF THE SAHELIAN COUNTRIES 26-27 MARCH, 1973. CHAD NOT PRESENT. THIS MEETING RESOLVED TO UNDERTAKE STUDIES FOR: 1) IDENTIFICATION AND QUANTIFICATION OF SHORTAGES OF RAIN THROUGHOUT THE SAHEL; 2) DETECTION OF A POSSIBLE DROUGHT CYCLE; 3) GENERAL APPLICATION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF INDUCING RAIN; 4) BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE TROPICAL CLIMATE. RESOLUTION ALSO "REQUESTS THE SPECIALIZED INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND FRIENDLY COUNTRIES TO ASSIST IN THE

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ATTAINMENT OF ABOVE OBJECTIVES."

2. THE SECRETARIAT HAS CORRECTED AN EARLIER IMPRESSION HERE THAT A UNDP PROJECT, ALREADY FORMULATED FOR EXPERT SURVEY, TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE AROSE FROM MEETING OF UNDP RES REPS OF THE SIX COUNTRIES, BUT ITS EXACT STATUS AS A PROPOSAL IS NOT CLEAR. SECRETARIAT OFFERED TO DISCUSS ITS STATUS WITH AFRICAN BUREAU OF UNDP IF WE THOUGHT THIS DESIRABLE.

3. AT WORKING LEVEL, WMO SECRETARIAT BELIEVES THAT THIS SUGGESTION COULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE WEATHER MODIFICATION EXPERTS. ALTERNATIVELY, THEY FEEL THAT TWO SEPARATE PROJECTS COULD ALSO BE ARRANGED. IF THE COSTS OF EXPERT(S) FOR WEATHER MODIFICATION PROJECT WERE TO BE BORNE BY US, THEN WMO COULD GO AHEAD AS INDEPENDENT WMO PROJECT, BASING ITS ACTION ON RESOLUTION CITED ABOVE.

4. HOWEVER, WMO HAS ALREADY ADDRESSED METEOROLOGICAL DIRECTORS OF THE SIX COUNTRIES WITH SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS FOR ASSISTANCE AND NOW AWAITING RESPONSE. THEREFORE, THEY FEEL IT DESIRABLE TO HAVE SPECIFIC REQUEST FROM ONE OR MORE COUNTRIES FOR EXPERT ADVICE ON RAINFALL AUGMENTATION POSSIBILITIES BEFORE GOING AHEAD WITH SUCH A MISSION. COULD US TRY TO STIMULATE SUCH REQUESTS TO WMO BY CONTACTS THROUGH ITS EMBASSIES? IF SUCH REQUESTS ARE MADE, THEN EXPERT COULD MAKE CONTACT WITH DIRECTORS CONCERNED HERE IN GENEVA AT TIME OF WMO AFRICAN REGIONAL ASSOCIATION MEETING WHICH OPENS AUGUST 21. EFFORTS NOW BEING MADE TO HAVE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SIX SAHELIAN DIRECTORS ON AUGUST 20 AT WMO HEADQUARTERS.

5. FURTHER VIEWS WILL BE COMMUNICATED WHEN SYG WMO RETURNS LATER IN WEEK.

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